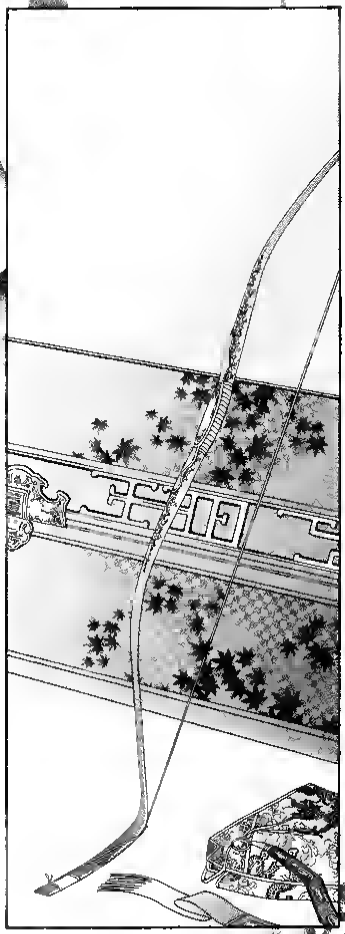
Pahanjip

Stories of Broken Silence

Scanner: MegKF
Translator: Kavic
Proofreader: Funnypages
Editor: Panarama
QC: Saga

別伊

entropy
www.entropy-manga.com
#entropy@irchighway.net



Chapter 10
Fork in the Road

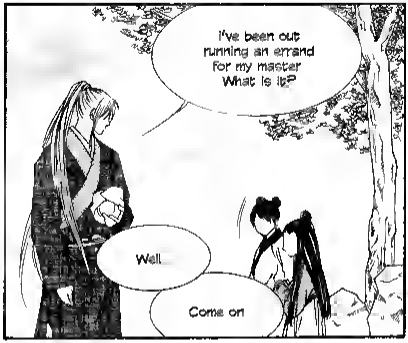
Wi
At such a young age, there's no weapon you can't handle I'm so proud of you
I'm far from where you are, Father.
No, when I was your age, I wasn't as good as you are at swordsmanship.
I should be happy and feel fulfilled that your skills are so great,
but for some reason, I'm troubled by it.

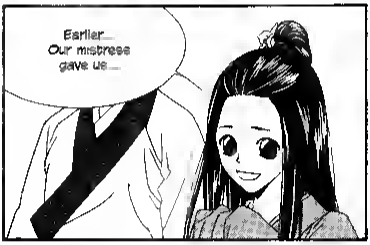
My dear Wi
Please don't become a soldier
You have so many other great talents,
so don't further your interest in martial arts.
As one's skill in martial arts increases,
one can't help but kill more and more people
The clothes I'm wearing, the shoes on your feet,
and the cookies your mother and Bo Ah ate this morning...

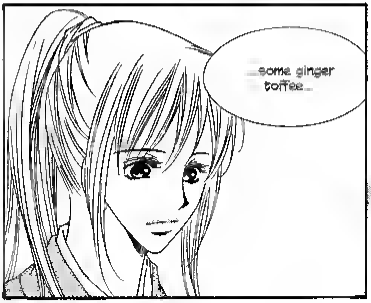
...all were earned on the battlefield, as I cut my countless enemies' necks...
and stole their lives.
In return for taking someone's life,
we get to eat good food, live in a big house
and buy silk clothing with what I've earned
That's a meaningless life that I don't want you to live
Mr. Won!
Mr. Won!

Mr. Won!

Where have you
been? We've been
looking for you


I've been out
running an errand
for my master
What is it?
Well...
Come on

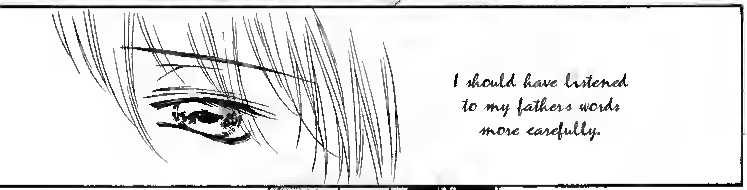

Earlier...
Our mistress
gave us...

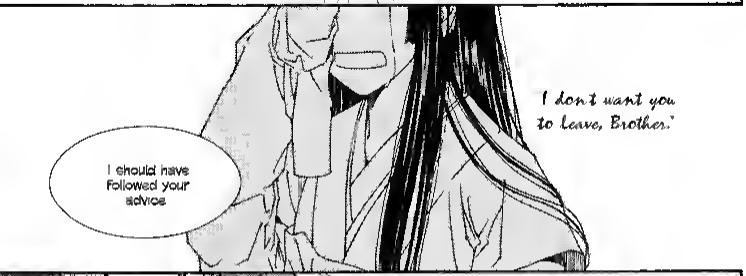

...some ginger
toffee...

Are you giving
it to me?

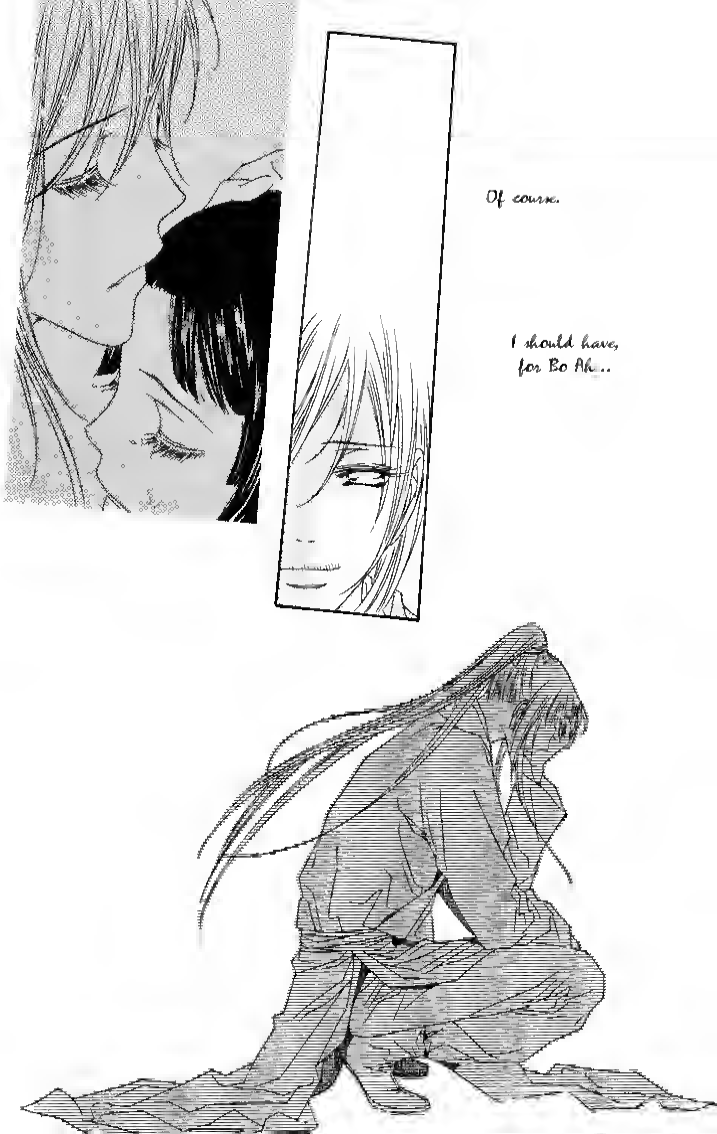
Thank you, I accept it graterully
I'll give you this in return it's pita *
Oh, is it Mrs Yang's pita?
*A type of bread made with bee?
Her pita is so delicious!
Who is that child over there?
Ah...
The mistress in the neighborhood is visiting our house

He's not supposed to play with servant kids like us.
We wouldn't want his pretty silk to get dirty, would we?
You shouldn't say that. You know he can hear you.
Come over here.
Do you like pisi?


I should have listened to my father's words more carefully.


I don't want you to leave, Brother."
I should have followed your advice.

I should have done so.


Of course.
I should have,
for Bo Ah...

OH HO HO HO HO HO HO

Uh, I was only going to find out the price of your silk and leave.

I'm telling you, I have high hopes for that child's future

At the age of seven, he's already writing beautiful poems like this. I'm actually very bewildered.

So I brought this one poem he wrote...

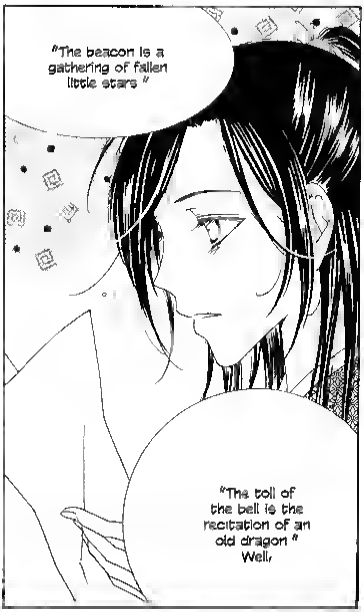
Ah, of course I know that Hyun Rang* doesn't have any interest in reading poetry.

*A polite way to address someone else's son.

but will you look at it, anyway?"

PUNCH

I'm wondering if perhaps my son is the reincarnation of Jo Ja Gun's spirit. What shall I do?" I'm not a good enough mother to raise a genius as a genius!
Well, a mother can only act as a genius's manager, so I don't know how well I'll do.—
OH HO HO HO HO HO HO


"The beacon is a gathering of fallen little stars."
"The toll of the bell is the recitation of an old dragon." Well,

I'm sure it means that the child will die early and that his father will mourn for his death.

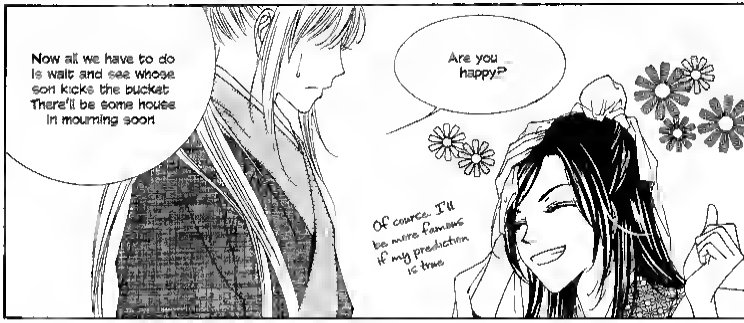
What...?
OUR SON IS AS HEALTHY AND LIVELY AS ANY BOY HIS AGE CAN BE! HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING?
Ah, of course, your son is very healthy
I meant the child who wrote this poem
ARE..
ARE YOU SAYING I BROUGHT SOMEONE ELSE'S POEM AND AM LYING TO YOU ABOUT IT?!

WELL, I NEVER!
I'D HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU AND YOUR IMPUDENCE, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET'S GO!
GET RID OF IT! HOW DARE YOU BEG FOR FOOD FROM THE SERVANTS?!
What is this?

Ah, my customer is
But Mr. Won gave it to him...
HmP Ho Yeon
THAT'S MY PILA!
PUNCH
I WON'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE, YOU BASTARD!

He didn't look like the type to write such poetry

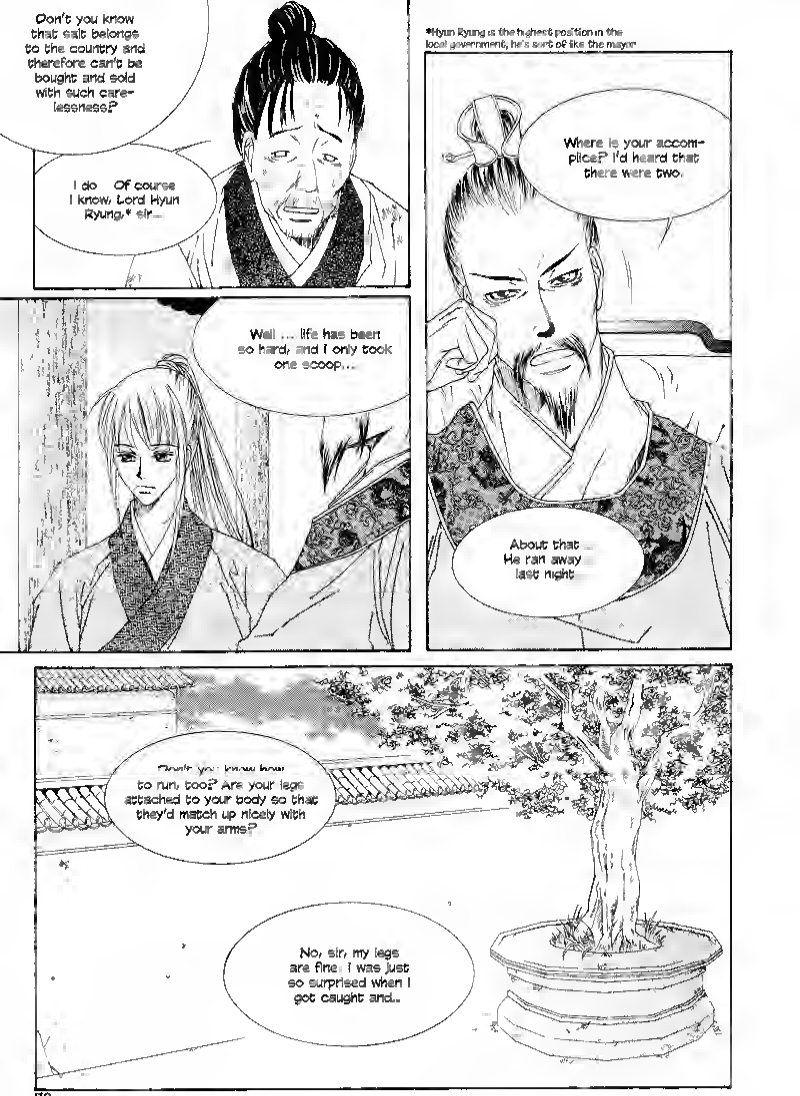
He was as innocent as a child could be
That woke me up
See, I knew it
It wasn't his poem
He didn't look like he'd have such a bad fortune.

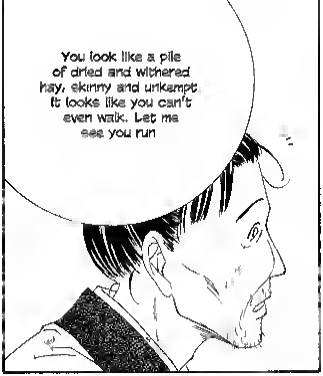

Now all we have to do is wait and see whose son kicks the bucket There'll be some houses in mourning soon
Are you happy?
Of course. I'll be more famous if my prediction is true

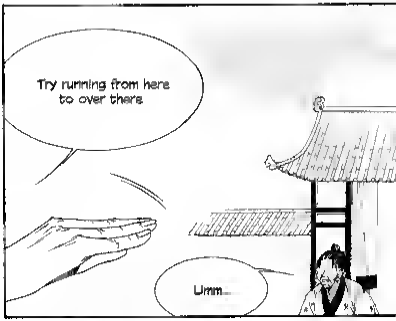
Would it be all right if I took some time off?
Huh?

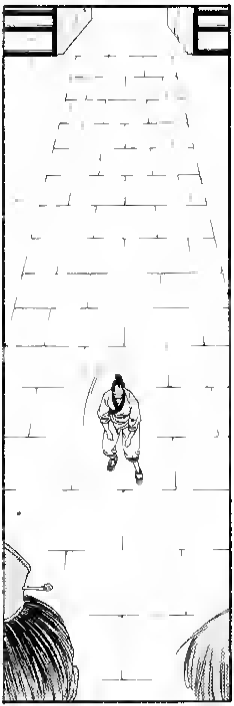
I heard that someone I know is in the area, so I thought I'd pay him a visit.
For about five days...
What about me? There are a lot of people who are after my life, day after day.
Please calm down. Most of them can't even get through our front door.
Those are the ones I'm scared of!
What if they break in?! I don't want to die!
Why would you? I'll leave Shin Woi with you.
I'M SCARED OF THAT THE MOST!

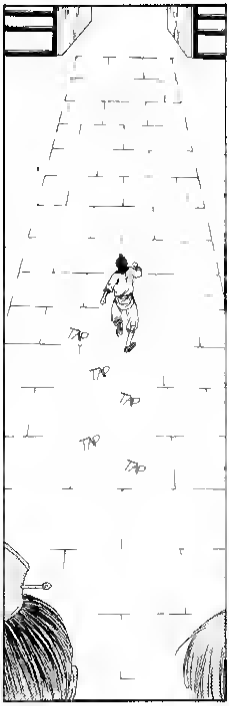
TAP
TAP
TAP
Are you the one who sold salt without permission?

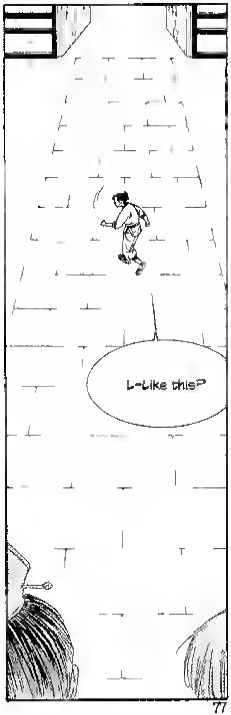

Don't you know that salt belongs to the country and therefore can't be bought and sold with such carelessness?
I do. Of course I know, Lord Hyun Ryung,* sir...
*Hyun Ryung is the highest position in the local government, he's sort of like the mayor
Where is your accomplice? I'd heard that there were two.
Well ... life has been so hard, and I only took one scoop...
About that. He ran away last night
"Don't you know how to run, too? Are your legs attached to your body so that they'd match up nicely with your arms?
No, sir, my legs are fine. I was just so surprised when I got caught and...


You look like a pile of dried and withered hay, skinny and unkempt. It looks like you can't even walk. Let me see you run


Try running from here to over there
Umm...




TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

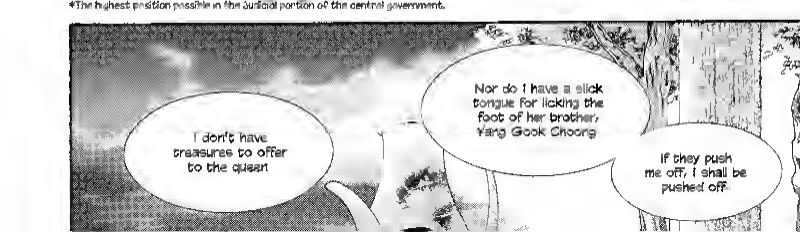

L-Like this?

WHAT ARE YOU STANDING THERE FOR? I TOLD YOU TO RUN!
YELL
EEEEEEEEEEEEEK
He runs like a horse I let him get away, right before my very eyes
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

You are the same as always, Teacher
Actually, it's the salt merchants who are scheming with the authorities and reaping all the benefits.
They're trying to cover up their own sins by blaming it on hapless peasants...
I can't just sit back and watch

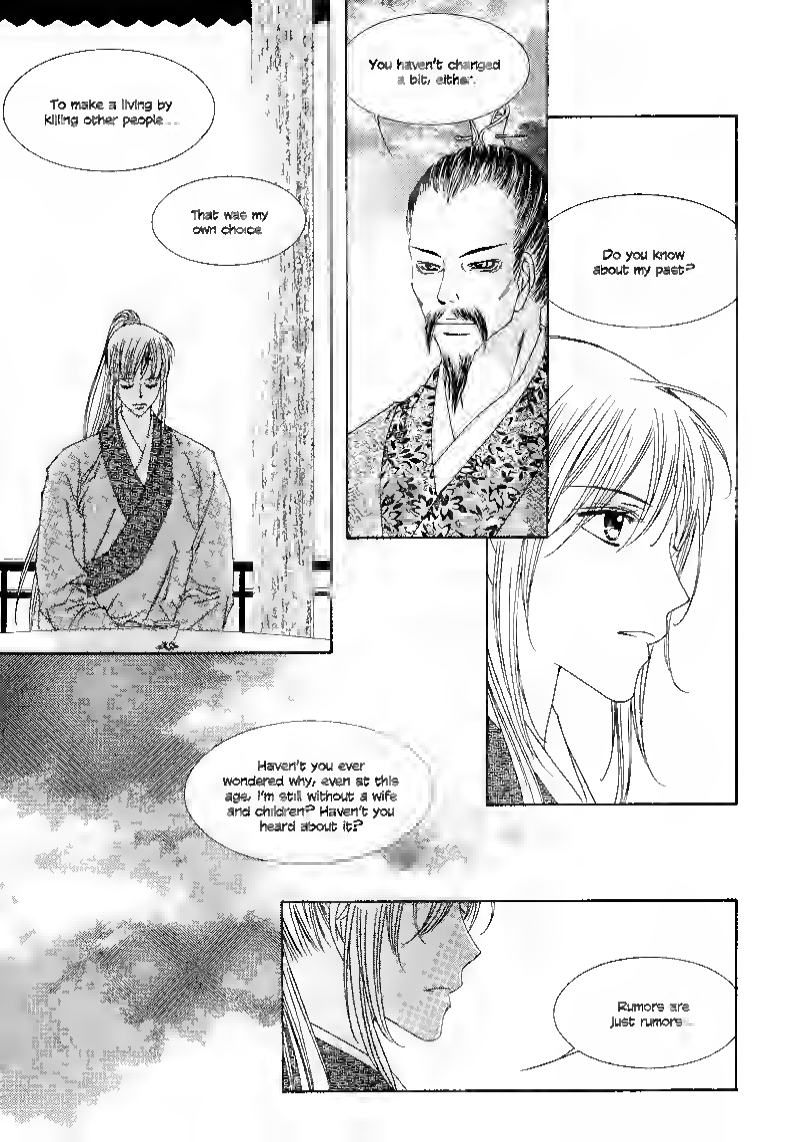
Is that why you declined the offer to be Shi Rang?* So you could stay at a lower level and help those citizens?
That's nonsense. I'm not doing it because I wasn't offered it. Why would I decline?

*The highest position possible in the judicial portion of the central government.


I don't have treasures to offer to the queen
Nor do I have a slick tongue for licking the foot of her brother, Yang Gook Choong
If they push me off, I shall be pushed off

Stories about you are famous, even in Nak Yang
I immediately thought it was you, Teacher.
HA HA HA HA HA
A high officer stopped in a small district once and told the Hyun Ryung to prepare some sheep and pigs to feed his attendants. He replied...
I am the sheep and the pig. Kill and cook me to feed your workers
And upon hearing this,
People...
don't often change

I heard about you, too
After that, I asked around, trying to find you,
but when I couldn't find news about you I thought it was because you didn't wish to see me
I've regretted so much
I should have kept you when I could
This kind of talk is awkward
I'll never forget what you've done for me


To make a living by killing other people...
That was my own choice
You haven't changed a bit, either.
Do you know about my past?
Haven't you ever wondered why, even at this age, I'm still without a wife and children? Haven't you heard about it?
Rumors are just rumors...

Thirty years ago, I...

I killed my own wife.

Yes
Back then, the emperor was wise,
and I held a high status, incomparable to my rank now...
"When will I be able to see you again?"

I'll be back soon.
I'm only saving a troop in trouble, so it won't take too long.
But...
Don't you trust my army's fierceness?
For you, my dear,
I'll get rid of them all without giving them a chance to open their mouths.
Hurry and return to me

The days without you suffocate me with loneliness.
It's hard to survive them...
GENERAL!
GENERAL!

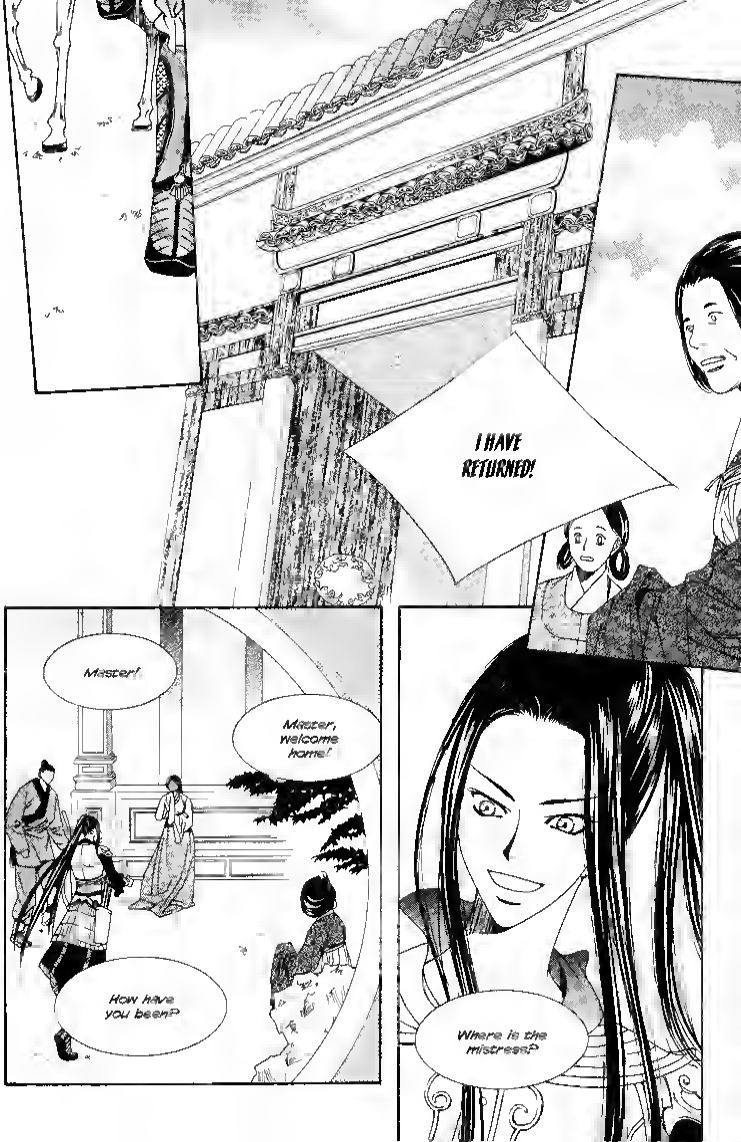
GENERAL!
THE SWORD AND ... BOW THAT YOU ... LEFT BEFORE .. HAVING AN AUDIENCE ... WITH HIS MAJESTY...
Ah
I'd forgotten them. Thanks.
Why are you in such a hurry? You were like that even in front of His Majesty...
When I think of going home to my wife,
I just get too excited.

Will I get to meet the wife you treasure so much?
Just for a little bit. You can't look at her for too long, anyway, because her beauty will blind you.
You finally received the status of Dae Jang Goon* in the Jwa Woo Shin Moo sector. Congratulations!
Thank you. I'll be having a big feast soon you should come join us.
THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND A MESSENGER. I'LL BE GOING HOME IMMEDIATELY.
Well...
He's barely over twenty and he's already got wealth, power, and a beautiful wife
What's left for him to desire?

*Dae Jang Goon is the highest military status in the federal government.

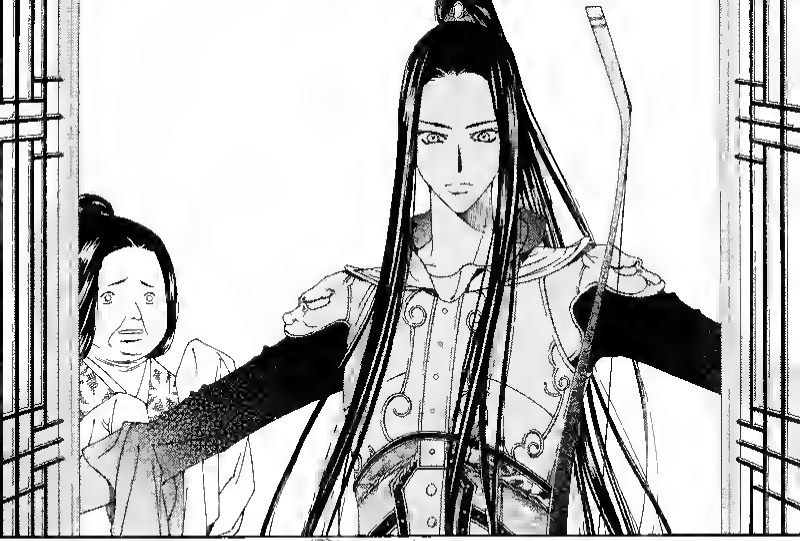
I'LL DISTRIBUTE THE SILK SENT TO ME FROM THE HEAVENS!
WAHHHHH
YOU'RE ON ORDERS TO GET AS DRUNK AS YOU PLEASE!
YOU'RE FREE TO TAKE ALL MY CONCUBINES FOR TODAY AS WELL, IF YOU WISH.
IT'S A GREAT DAY TO EAT FINE FOOD AND DRINK TO YOUR HEARTS' CONTENT.

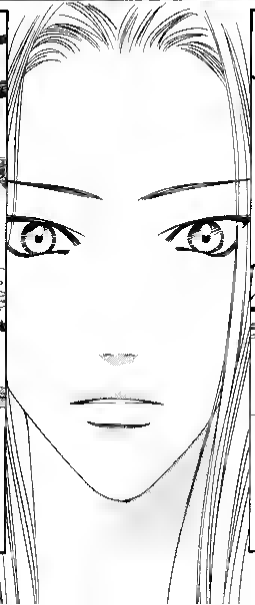
RIGHT NOW,
I'M THE HAPPIEST
MAN ALIVE!
NOTHING UNDER THIS
SKY CAN CHANGE THE
WAY I FEEL.


I HAVE RETURNED!
Master!
Master, welcome home!
How have you been?
Where is the mistress?

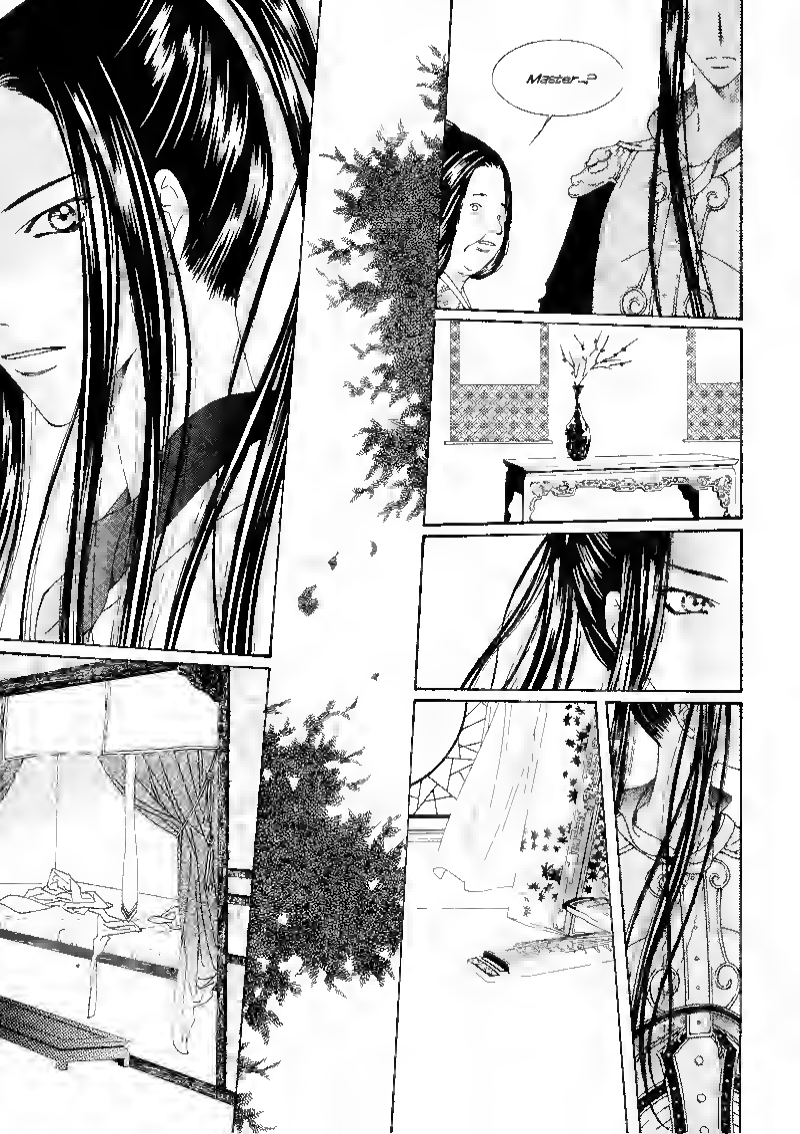
She said that...
...she'd be at the annex all day
DARLING!
Master...!
SHATTER
Why are you so surprised? I'm back. Where is the mistress?

Master, you're back so soon
Where is she? Go and tell her that I'm back.
Umm...
Take your armor off first and...
There's no need. Is she over here?
DARLING!
MASTER!





Where could she be?
Huh? Well... Ah, the back garden
Let's hurry to
Garden? Can't she hear my voice?
That... That seems to be it.


Master...?

That shoe doesn't belong to me
Whose is it?

Why did your face lose color when you saw me earlier?
Huh?
Why are my precious harps out of their case?

The case's rightful owners are outside, but the lid is shut.
There must be a visitor who has taken their place.
MASTER! PLEASE, FORGIVE...!
CLUNK

BANG
AHHHHHHHH!
MASTER!
At that moment, something inside me changed.

When I took a breath...
...and slowly looked around the room.
In that short moment,
some part of me changed, quickly and surely.

I pressed down on the lid, so they couldn't come out
Then, I shot one, two, three
I shot a total of seven arrows
It wasn't that I had lost my temper through rage
One wouldn't be enough to kill both
Two wouldn't kill them at once
Then, three, four arrows...

I calmly and coldly calculated,
then shot in every arrow
They weren't able to escape the case with their lives

Until that moment, I didn't realize...
People do not change often, but when they do...
... that the deep love I felt for her ...
...they change easily.
could be changed so quickly

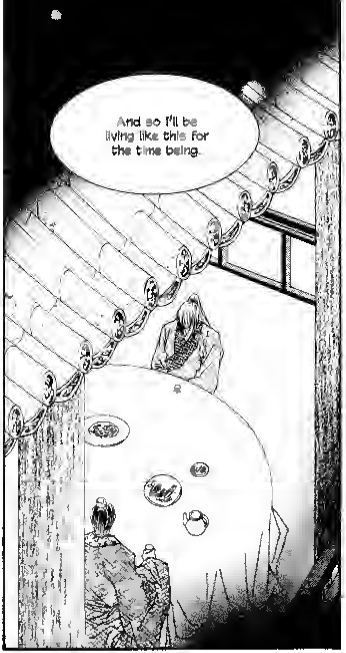
Do you think of it as betrayal?
That could be it.
Has the love gone so far that it has transformed into hate?
But what of it?
Whatever it was, and whatever it transformed into later,
it was already something beyond love and affection.

This meat was once a live sheep
But that doesn't mean it could turn back into one.
Even if I chew and rechew that love and affection,
it's still only a fickle delusion of the mind that it could turn back.
We'll only be frightened at its irreversibility.
And what if we hold on to it?

Your sister is dead.
Wi...
Even if you feel you must criticize yourself for the rest of your life,
We'll only suffer agony over such pettiness of the heart.
Bo Ah will never return.
We will roam about, not understanding the heaviness of our limbs.
What's the point?

Can you accept that this is a way of life ...
... and bury it in your past?
The person I serve now ...
... is struggling with something he can't forget ... Nor can he bury it

Of course, it was only by chance that I ended up serving him
It's more difficult to serve him than it is to be a soldier in your troop.
But thanks to that
I've found a way to live with this guilt on my shoulders
Because of the guilt and regret,
another path has opened up


And so I'll be living like this for the time being.

You are...
...very similar to your father

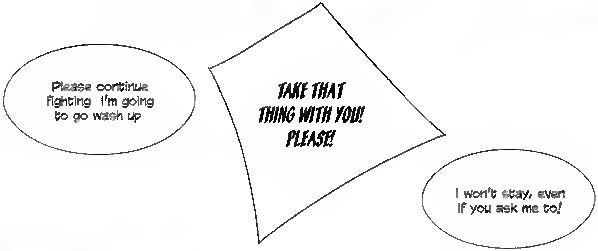
I admired your father very much.
He was younger than I was, but I couldn't help but admire his martial arts and his disposition.

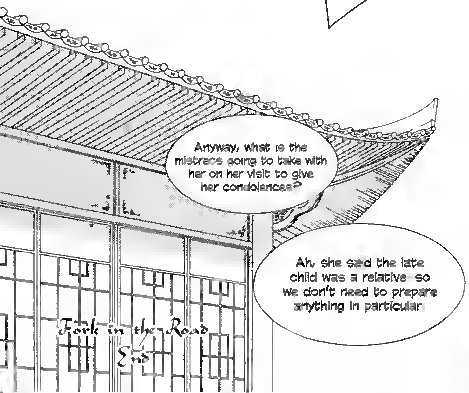
Even when he was sentenced to be executed after taking the blame for a senior officer,
he never asked me for any kind of help.
He was a very strict, moral,
and empty person.
even though he was powerless and stood alone as a general,
Of course, I knew of his innocence better than anyone.
You, on the other hand... Are you like him in this way?

A person who never changes...
...is always tougher than one who does
So I hope you forgive yourself one day
The reason you changed wasn't because you weren't human enough.
It's because you are only human.

FIVE DAYS, MY BUTT! IT'S BEEN SEVEN DAYS ALREADY!
One of the horses I rode wasn't very fast...
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE! THAT THING SCARED ME EVERY SINGLE NIGHT WITH ALL KINDS OF TALK!
But you're not dead—
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! I'VE MET DEATH AND CAME BACK TO LIFE! THAT'S A VERY DIFFERENT—

THOSE...! THOSE EYES! YOU BITCH! DO YOU THINK I LET YOU LIVE ... 'CAUSE I CAN'T GET RID OF YOU?!
Again...? Stop it, Shin Wol
Why don't you do it then?
What's up with him now?
Uah, I don't know Just leave them be It happens everyday


Please continue fighting I'm going to go wash up
TAKE THAT THING WITH YOU! PLEASE!
I won't stay, even if you ask me to!


Anyway, what is the mistress going to take with her on her visit to give her condolences?
Ah, she said the late child was a relative so we don't need to prepare anything in particular
Fork in the Road
Ep.